

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-20 were originally submitted in an application filed October 8, 2001. Claims 1-20 were rejected in an Office action mailed October 1, 2003, to which a response was filed December 30, 2003. New claim 21 is added by this Amendment. Claims 1, 10, and 15 are independent claims. Claims 2-9, 11-14, and 16-21 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 10, and 15, respectively.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a data communication system having a plurality of mobile transceiver units communicative with a plurality of base transceiver units,
a network controller intercommunicative between the base transceiver units and one or more host computers for data interchange therebetween, ~~and~~ having port means and providing selection of one of a plurality of electrical interface standards for communication using said port means, based upon user input ~~at a relatively low data rate and at a relatively high data rate.~~
2. (Original) The network controller of claim 1 wherein
said controller includes means for interconnection of existing installed mobile transceiver units therewith.
3. (Original) The network controller of claim 2 wherein
said controller communicates with said base transceiver units by an RS232C interface.
4. (Currently Amended) The network controller of claim 1 wherein
said network controller providing a multiplicity of data communication ports thereon,
at least two of said communication ports being software-controllable to select among
[[a]]the plurality of electrical interface standards~~means.~~
5. (Original) The invention of claim 4 wherein

at least one of said communication ports being communicative with a network of serially interconnected base transceiver units over a single twisted pair.

6. (Original) The invention of claim 1 wherein
at least a portion of said mobile transceiver units are communicative with said base transceiver units by spread spectrum means.

7. (Original) The invention of claim 1 wherein
at least a portion of said mobile transceiver units are communicative with said base transceiver units by synthesized frequency radio means.

8. (Original) The invention of claim 5 wherein
said network of base transceiver units is operable over an RS485 interface.

9. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 1 wherein
said network controller providing a multiplicity of data communication ports thereon,
at least three of said communication ports being software-controllable to select among
[[a]]the plurality of electrical interface standards means
at least two of said at least three communication ports being selectively controllable to
communicate by RS232, RS422, RS485, and V.35 means.

10. (Currently Amended) In a data communication system having a multiplicity of
mobile portable transceiver units communicative by radio means with base transceiver units,
apparatus for data interchange between said base transceiver units and a host computer
comprising,
a housing having a multiplicity of communication ports thereon,
at least three of said communication ports selectively controllable to provide data
interchange [[by]]using an RS232 electrical interface standard, based upon user input,

at least two of said communication ports selectively controllable to provide data interchange ~~[[by]]~~using a RS422 electrical interface standard, based upon user input.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein,
at least one of said communication ports selectively controllable to provide data interchange by a V.35 interface.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein,
said at least two communication ports are selectively controllable to provide data interchange by a RS485 interface.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein more than one host computer may be interconnected to said data communication system.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein,
a number of said multiplicity of communication ports are dedicated to interconnection to host computers and the remainder of said communicative parts are interconnectable with base transceiver units.

15. (Currently Amended) An improved apparatus for collecting transmitting and processing data stored in a code, such as a bar code, said apparatus including a portable code reader with processing and transmitting units for radiating information in the form of electromagnetic waves, a stationary receiver physically separated from the code reader, and a data processor coupled to the stationary receiver, wherein the improvement comprises:

a network controller member having a multiplicity of communication ports thereon,
said network controller member intercommunicative with said data processor at one of said communication ports,

said network controller member intercommunicative with said stationary receiver at another of said communication ports,

said network controller member selectively operable with said data processor ~~[[at]]~~using
one of a plurality of electrical interface standards, based upon user input ~~more communication~~
rates.

16. (Original) The invention of claim 15 wherein
said network controller member selectively operable with said stationary receiver at one
or more communication rates.

17. (Original) The invention of claim 15 wherein
said network controller selectively intercommunicative with a diagnostic device over one
of said communication ports.

18. (Original) The invention of claim 15 wherein
a second data processor associated with said network controller and intercommunicative
therewith.

19. (Original) The invention of claim 15 wherein
a multiplicity of stationary receivers intercommunicative with said network controller.

20. (Original) The invention of claim 15 wherein
said network controller selectively operable to communicate with said data processor at
more than one data transfer rate.

21. (New) The invention of claim 15, wherein the plurality of electrical interface
standards comprises an RS232 standard, an RS422 standard, an RS485 standard, and a V.35
standard.